



PEDRO E. SEGARRA
MAYOR

MAYOR SEGARRA ANNOUNCES FREE TAX PREPARATION SERVICES FOR WORKING FAMILIES

--- NEWS AND COMMUNITY STATEMENT---

(January 17, 2012) --- Mayor Pedro E. Segarra today announced the availability of free tax preparation and filing services at several Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites in Hartford.

Families who earned up to \$50,000 in 2011 are eligible for free tax preparation services, including electronic filing and direct deposit today through April 15, 2012. The sites are staffed with IRS trained and certified volunteers who will assist families with preparing and submitting their federal and state returns, and determine their eligibility for tax credits and refunds, including the new state Earned Income Tax Credit.

“Hardworking residents strive every day to provide for their families and make ends meet,” Mayor Segarra said. “This quality service is free, offering one less expense to pay for. In addition, the new state Earned Income Tax Credit could put much-needed dollars back in Hartford households.”

The average federal Earned Income Tax Credit received by Hartford area filers in 2010 was \$1,700. The addition of the Connecticut Earned Income Tax Credit would increase that amount by \$510, based on income eligibility, marital status and number of children.

The Hartford-area VITA/EITC campaign brought \$17 million to 6,472 local filers last year; roughly \$4.1 million was earned income tax credit dollars. The IRS estimates however that one in four people do not receive the credit because they are unsure of their eligibility or do not know where to obtain free tax assistance.

VITA sites are operated by the Hartford Asset Building Collaborative under the management of Co-opportunity. Filers who visit these sites can also obtain information on asset-building and assistance in completing the Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA). To locate a tax site or schedule an appointment, tax filers can call 2-1-1, the United Way’s free information and referral hotline.

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